

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CPR-02 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 AID-20 SY-10 L-03 DRC-01 /153 W

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R 212103Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6602

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

COMCARIBSEAFRON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0123

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GJ, PINS, PDEV

SUBJ: GRENADA-U.S. INDEPENDENCE DELEGATION AND SCHEDULE

REF: BTN 0031

1. ACCORDING TO SUPPOSEDLY FINAL VERSION OF CELEBRATIONS SCHEDULE JUST RECEIVED FROM BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION (COPY TO BE POUCHED), FIRST MAJOR EVENT IN WHICH FOREIGN DELEGATIONS MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IS STATE DINNER AND RECEPTION BEGINNING 8:00 PM FEBRUARY 5. TO ARRIVE GRENADA IN TIME FOR THIS EVENT, US DELEGATION WOULD HAVE TO ARRIVE BARBADOS NO LATER THAN 1500 HOURS FEB 5 TO CONNECT WITH ONWARD COMMERCIAL OR CHARTER FLIGHT, SINCE PEARLS AIRPORT IN GRENADA CLOSSES AT 1730 HRS. WE SUGGEST DELEGATION BE BOOKED ON PA 231, DEPARTING NEW YORK 0930, ARRIVING BARBADOS 1355 ON FEB 5. IN VIEW HEAVY BOOKINGS ON LIAT, ONLY AIRLINE PROVIDING REGULARLY SCHEDULED SERVICE TO GRENADA, IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR EMBASSY TO CHARTER PRIVATE AIRCRAFT FROM BARBADOS TO GRENADA. THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT DELEGATION'S AUTHORIZATION OR TRAVEL ORDERS INCLUDE USE OF EITHER COMMERCIAL OR CHARTER AIRCRAFT TO AND/OR FROM GRENADA. (SIF-SEATER AIRCRAFT CHARTERS
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FOR US \$210 ONE WAY; 9-SEATER FOR US \$315.) WOULD APPRECIATE

IF DEPARTMENT WOULD ADVISE SOONEST CONCERNING DELEGATIONS
ANTICIPATED SIZE AND ETA BARBADOS, EVEN IF DELEGATES'
NAMES NOT YET KNOWN, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE EMBASSY'S

SCHEDULING OF ONWARD TRANSPORTATION.

2. FYI: UK HIGH COMMISSIONER IN BARBADOS HAS INFORMED US
THAT ROYAL PERSONAGE, PRINCE RICHARD OF GLOUCESTER, WILL
ARRIVE GRENADA FEB 2 ON BOARD HMS BACCHANTE. MICHAEL BLAKER,
JUNIOR MINISTER IN FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH MINISTRY, WILL
ARRIVE FEB # ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER MEMBERS OF UK DELEGATION.
CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION HAS INFORMED US THAT ITS DELEGATION,
TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE FEB 4 WILL CONSIST OF TWO
CABINET MINISTERS, THE PARLIAMENTARY WHIP, AND THE CANADIAN
HIGH COMMISSIONER (PLEASE KEEP CONFIDENTIAL). CANADIANS
HAVE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT CANADIAN NAVAL VESSEL WILL BE ON
STATION IN ST. GEORGE'S HARBOR.

3. PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS: APPEARS LIKELY THAT ACCREDITED
DIPLOMATS WILL BE EXPECTED TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS SOME TIME
DURING CELEBRATIONS. WE THEREFORE URGE DEPARTMENT TO DRAW
UP APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS ACCREDITING AMBASSADOR IN BARBADOS
TO GRENADA. IF THESE CANNOT BE POUCHED IN TIME FOR CELEBRATIONS,
SUGGEST DELIVERY BE ENTRUSTED TO MEMBER OF DELEGATION.

4. IN VIEW GROWING UNREST AND UNCERTAIN SECURITY SITUATION IN
GRENADA, WE STRONGLY URGE THAT DEPT ASK HMG, EITHER THROUGH
ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON OR OUR EMBASSY IN LONDON, TO ADVISE
USG FORMALLY NO LATER THAN FEB 4 WHETHER IT IS SAFE AND
ADVISABLE FOR US DELEGATION PROCEED TO GRENADA. WE WILL
CONTINUE TO REPORT DEVELOPMENTS IN GRENADA AND WILL, AT AN
APPROPRIATE TIME, SUBMIT OUR VIEWS CONCERNING ADVISABILITY
OF US DELEGATION'S PARTICIPATION IN CEREMONIES. HOWEVER,
IN VIEW OF UK'S INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING, SUPERIOR REPORTING
CAPABILITIES FROM GRENADA, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRENADA'S
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, WE BELIEVE IT WISE TO SEEK THEIR ADVICE
AND PLACE ONUS FOR NON-ATTENDANCE (IF THIS TRANSPIRES) ON
THEIR DECISION RATHER THAN OURS.

5. FYI: IT IS INCREASINGLY UNLIKELY THAT PLANNED EVENTS WILL
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TAKE PLACE ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE. BARBADIAN BARRISTER JACK
DEAR, WHO HAS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH OPPOSITION IN GRENADA NATIONAL

PARTY, STATES CATEGORICALLY THAT GNP IS PLANNING PEACEFUL
DEMONSTRATIONS TO DISRUPT INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS.
LIKELY
THAT OTHER GROUPS WILL FOLLOW SUIT, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON

THAN TO EMBARRASS GAIY. ALSO POSSIBLE THAT DEMONSTRATIONS, IF THEY DO OCCUR, WILL NOT REMAIN PEACEFUL. REGIONAL POLICE ADVISOR FOR BRITISH DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, MURDOCK MCKENZIE, PLACES LITTLE FAITH IN LOYALTY OR DEDICATION OF GRENADA'S REGULAR POLICE FORCE, WHICH CONSISTS OF 536 MEN AND ONLY FOUR OFFICERS, SUPPLEMENTED BY VOLUNTEER CONSTABULARY OF ROUGHLY 100 DAILY-PAID VOLUNTEERS. ACCORDING TO MCKENZIE, MORALE OF GRENADA POLICE IS LOWEST OF ANY IN CARIBBEAN, ATTRIBUTABLE IN LARGE MEASURE TO LOW PAY, POOR WORKING CONDITIONS AND GAIY'S SACKING OF ALMOST ALL COMPETENT OFFICERS. THUS IN THE EVENT OF A DISTURBANCE GAIY WILL BE FORCED TO RELY ON UNTRAINED AND OVERLY ZEALOUS POLICE AIDES WHOSE PRESENCE IS LIKELY TO AGGRAVATE RATHER THAN EASE MATTERS.

DONOVAN

NOTE BY OC/T: # AS RECEIVED, CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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